Lack of Infrastructure in Educational Institutions

975. SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the educational institutions which are without any infrastructure;

(b) the steps taken to make the non-viable educational institutions, viable; and

(c) the steps contemplated to check the unplanned growth of universities?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) As per the Fifth All-India Educational Survey, with 30 September, 1986 as the date of reference, 13.50 per cent of primary schools and 4.11 per cent of upper primary schools were without building. Nearly 3,000 colleges have been found ineligible for development assistance by the University Grants Commission (UGC), as these institutions lack adequate facilities.

(b) In addition to the schemes of State Governments, the Central Government also initiated in 1987-88 the scheme of Operation Blackboard to improve the facilities in Primary schools. The UGC provides financial assistance to all eligible colleges for their general development as well as for specific schemes for a five year plan period. The assistance under general development is for buildings, equipment and books & journals.

(c) UGC has circulated guidelines which should be followed before starting new universities. Clearance or approval of UGC is not a legal requirement for establishment of new universities. UGC gives financial assistance to only those universities which have the minimum academic and physical infrastructure and have been found eligible to receive such grants in accordance with the provisions of UGC Act.

[*Translation*]

Backlog of Reserved Vacancies in the Ministry

976. SHRI VILASRAO MAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in his Ministry in the beginning of the current year;

(b) the progress made to fill up the reserved vacancies during the last two months; and

(c) the time by which the backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI):(a) There was a backlog of 18 vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Group 'B' and Group 'C' in the Ministry of Food in the beginning of this year.

(b) and (c). One Group 'C' vacancy has since been filled up. Other vacancies have been reported to the Department of Personnel & Training for nominating candidates.